

REFERENCES AND REVIEWS

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the present study, 32 rabbits were placed on a high cholesterol diet. Half of these animals were then given intravenous plastic bead suspensions and developed right ventricular hypertrophy. It was found that this latter group of animals developed a significantly greater degree of pulmonary atherosclerosis than did the control group which did not receive beads. Results of this study furnish further evidence for the role of hypertension per se as a factor in the development of experimental cholesterol atherosclerosis.

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BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTATION—E. Storti. *Minerva Med.* Vol. 52:295 (Jan. 31) 1961.

Bone marrow was withdrawn from each of 26 patients with different types of neoplasia, and it was stored at -79°C . (-112°F .) to be reimplanted at the end of massive radiation and chemotherapy which, with few exceptions, coincided with the onset of severe leukopenia and thrombopenia. Patients whose blood formula had dropped to 400 to 500 leukocytes and 10,000 platelets per cubic millimeter received autologous bone marrow transplantation; 25 days later they had recovered from the medullary lesions caused by radiation. But 10 patients who were in better condition and did not receive the transplantation had not returned to normal values three months after terminating radiotherapy. Bone marrow transplantation was also applied to six patients who had incipient neoplasias and were receiving massive radiation combined with intensive chemotherapy. The results will be reported after enough time has elapsed for evaluation. Another indication for this autologous transplantation is medullary lesion caused by accidental radiation, as it was applied in the treatment of the six Yugoslavian scientists who received massive radiation from an atomic reactor in 1958, as reported by Mathé and coworkers.

DOUBLE BLIND TRIAL TO INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THORAZINE (CHLORPROMAZINE), COMPazine (PROCHLORPERAZINE), AND STELAZINE (TRIFLUOPERAZINE) IN PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIA—I. C. Wilson, J. McKay, and M. G. San-difer Jr. *J. Ment. Sci.*—Vol. 107:90 (Jan.) 1961.

The phenothiazines are becoming more potent and they appear to become much more specific in alleviating the primary thought, emotional, and behavioral disorders in schizophrenia. On the assumption that these drugs had a differential therapeutic effect in the alleviation of schizophrenic symptoms, a double-blind trial was set up in eight paranoid schizophrenics, who were selected mostly from intermediate stay patients, that is, those who had failed to respond satisfactorily to the initial three months' intensive therapy. Chlorpromazine, prochlorperazine, trifluoperazine and an inert placebo were used in a latin square design. None of the drugs had an appreciably different effect on psychotic ideation, but prochlorperazine and trifluoperazine were definitely superior in the management of overall psychopathology as measured by the rating scales devised by Malamud and Sands in 1947.

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BILE DUCT RECONSTRUCTION WITH GASTRIC PEDICLE TUBE—H. J. Heimlich and G. F. Gitlitz. *Arch. Surg.*—Vol. 82:755 (May) 1961.

In this new operation for reconstructing obstructed bile ducts, a pedicle flap is created from the greater curvature of the stomach and made into a tube which remains attached at the pyloric end of the antrum. The proximal end of this gastric tube is anastomosed to the bile duct above the obstruction, permitting bile to flow into the stomach. The right gastroepiploic vessels accompany this tube, nourishing it; therefore, the tube can be made any reasonable

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length and diameter. When combined with cholecystectomy, the operation was successful in two dogs sacrificed in 7½ and 19 months postoperatively; a third animal died of cholangitis. Four dogs that had the procedure without cholecystectomy succumbed to cholangitis. The operation completely relieved bile duct obstruction in a patient with carcinoma of the head of the pancreas who was followed for six months postoperatively.

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KNITTED MARLEX MESH—F. C. Usher. Arch. Surg.—82:771 (May) 1961.

The successful use of a woven mesh of Marlex monofilament for repairing hernias was reported by the author. Marlex mesh was found to cause very little foreign-body

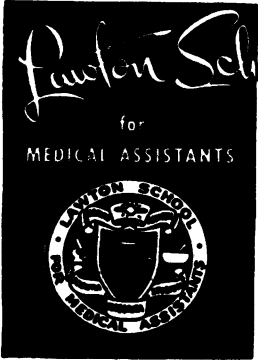
reaction and to be inert in the presence of infection. There were, however, several disadvantages to the taffeta weave—it lacked elasticity and the cut edges tended to ravel unless heat-sealed. The author found that a knitted mesh prepared from Marlex monofilament was superior to the woven mesh. It was more pliant and more resistant to fragmentation, it was resilient and had "two-way stretch," and the cut edge did not ravel. The knitted material was thicker than the taffeta weave, resulting in a heavier ingrowth of fibrous tissue and a stronger repair of the defect. Clinical use of the knitted mesh in 32 patients has been most satisfactory.

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STUDIES OF NICOTINIC ACID USE IN HYPERCHOLESTEREMIA—W. B. Parsons, Jr. Arch. Int. Med.—Vol. 107:653 (May) 1961.

Large doses of nicotinic acid (3 to 6 mg. daily), administered for long periods to reduce serum cholesterol levels, caused reproducible alterations in the bromsulphalein tests in 8 to 36 patients. These alterations were accompanied by abnormal serum transaminase (SGOT) and alkaline phosphatase levels in some cases. Evidence that the alterations represent hepatic dysfunction (possibly related to changes in cholesterol synthesis), rather than hepatocellular damage, includes rapid reversibility of the chemical findings, preponderance of abnormal results in patients receiving delayed-release nicotinic acid preparations, and the absence of consistent histologic abnormality. When abnormal biopsy findings have occurred, other possible contributing factors (carbon tetrachloride, diabetes mellitus, prochlorperazine) have cast doubt on the etiological role of nicotinic acid. Reversible impairment of glucose tolerance during nicotinic acid therapy has not been accompanied by clinical evidence of diabetes or changes in control of adult-onset diabetes. Inconsistent rises in average levels of serum uric acid have not been associated with gouty arthritis or renal calculi.

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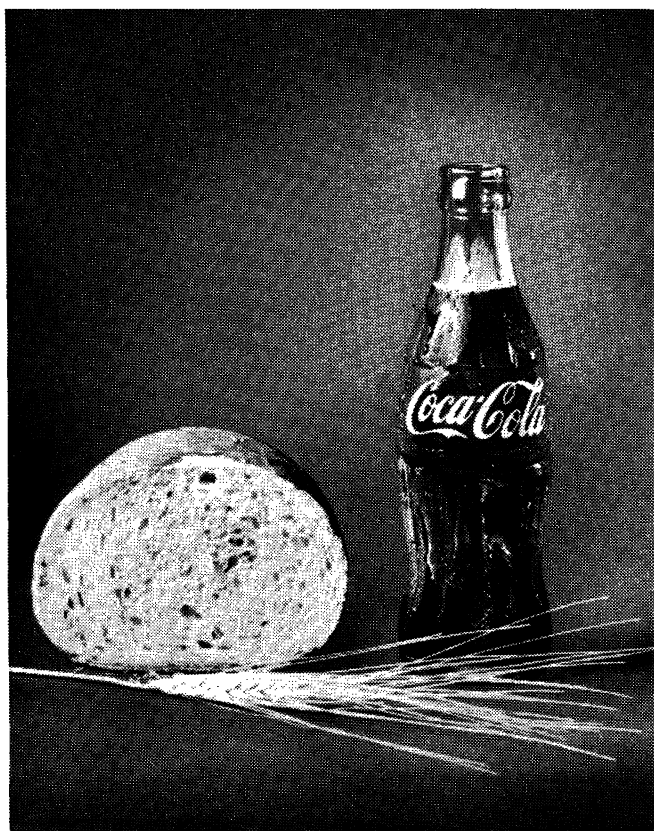
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